

Funding Level Announced for Fiscal Year 1992 Environmental Restoration Program

DOE announced that \$97 million has been approved for the environmental restoration program at RFP for fiscal year 1992 (FY92). This funding level is for both cleanup and pondcrete activities. In FY91 these programs were separate with \$44 million budgeted for environmental restoration activities and \$28.5 million budgeted for pondcrete. The FY92 level amounts to \$24.5 million more than the FY91 level.

This funding level will enable cleanup at the higher priority sites to remain on schedule. However, because the \$97 million falls below the amount requested for RFP, some schedule extensions may be requested of the regulators for lower priority sites.

Environmental cleanup at RFP is conducted under the Interagency Agreement (IAG) between DOE, EPA, and CDH. The IAG, which establishes cleanup priorities, tasks, and schedules, allows DOE to request extensions of cleanup milestones when valid reasons are provided. To date, DOE has requested and received several extensions to IAG milestones based on technical reasons.

Additionally, approximately \$126 million is allocated for waste management activities in FY92. The waste management program includes funding for handling and treatment of existing waste stored at RFP.

Draft Proposed Surface Water IM/IRA for Woman Creek Basin Rejected

DOE prepared two Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action Plans (IM/IRAs) to treat surface water contamination at two locations at Operable Unit No. 2 (OU2). The first IM/IRA addressed the South Walnut Creek drainage and was finalized in May 1991. The selected treatment consisted of using chemical treatment and microfiltration to remove metals and radionuclides, and a granular activated carbon system to remove volatile organic compounds. This plan was approved.

The second plan explored the degree of risk associated with surface water contamination in the Woman Creek Basin. Based on EPA criteria for calculating risk, DOE found an extremely low immediate threat to public health and the environment from surface water contamination at this location. DOE therefore concluded that an interim action on surface water at Woman Creek was not warranted. This plan was rejected by EPA and CDH in October 1991.

In place of the rejected plan, DOE has agreed to prepare an IM/IRA plan for subsurface contamination at the Woman Creek Basin. This plan, which will focus on contamination below the surface water level down to and including ground water, will be released in the spring of 1992. The new plan will recognize the existence of uncertainties and will include contingency plans. Information collected according to this plan will aid in selection of a final remedy according to EPA guidance.

DOE's "no action" recommendation for the Woman Creek Basin surface water was based primarily on the results of data collected from Woman Creek. Treatment effectiveness, implementability, environmental impact, and cost were also taken into account in choosing the best alternative. Although the no action alternative was considered the best interim surface water action at Woman Creek, DOE will continue to conduct soil and ground water studies to determine the best long-term solution for OU2. ■



ROCKY FLATS

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

UPDATE



A PERIODIC UPDATE ON ROCKY FLATS CLEANUP • DECEMBER 1991

DOE Breaks Ground for OU1 French Drain

DOE broke ground for construction of a French drain, which is part of the Interim Measures/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA) for Operable Unit 1 (OU1). The approximately 2,000-foot-long trench system will collect contaminated ground water from sources within OU1.

The ground water will be pumped to a newly-constructed treatment facility; contaminants will be removed, and treated water will be discharged to the South Interceptor

Ditch, which drains into holding pond C-2. The overall objective of the OU1

IM/IRA is to prevent the release and migration of contaminated ground water to the Woman Creek drainage.

OU1, the 881 Hillside, is being investigated and treated as a high-priority site because it has elevated concentrations of volatile organic compounds in the ground water and it is close to Woman Creek. IM/IRAs are conducted to reduce or eliminate any immediate threat to human health or the environment on an accelerated schedule.

Final Community Relations Plan and Responsiveness Summary Completed

DOE has completed the Final Community Relations Plan (CRP) for the Rocky Flats Plant Environmental Restoration Program. The CRP incorporates comments received during a public comment period on the document held in early 1991. A Responsiveness Summary based on this public comment and describing how DOE responded to the full range of comments has also been completed. Both documents are available at the reading rooms.

The principal objectives of the CRP are to 1) enhance public knowledge about RFP's environmental restoration activities; 2) encourage formal and informal public involvement in environmental efforts at RFP; 3) provide a forum for conflict resolution regarding environmental remediation; and 4) meet the community

relations requirements of CERCLA, NEPA, RCRA, and the IAG.

DOE received comments from 12 people on the Draft CRP, touching on 34 general areas. These areas included:

- The 1957 and 1969 RFP fires
- Comments generally reflected various public opinions about the amounts of radiation released by the two accidents.
- Clarification of, or additions to, general RFP history
- Increased and earlier opportunities for involvement in environmental restoration decisions.
- Support for the Technical Review Group, which was formed to solicit public input in the early stages of planning for cleanup. Participants include representatives of EPA, the Colorado Department of Health (CDH), area local governments, and local interest groups.

- Need for more accuracy in the site description section.

- Need for additional discussion about land use around RFP. Commenters requested additional information about commercial development around RFP or clarification of existing information on land use.

In addition to integrating public comment into the CRP, DOE introduced a toll-free meeting information telephone line to further assist in expanding public participation opportunities (see article on page 2).

The CRP will be revised at least every two years or whenever a final remedial action is selected for an operable unit. This revision option enables the CRP to be tailored to the concerns of the communities surrounding RFP.

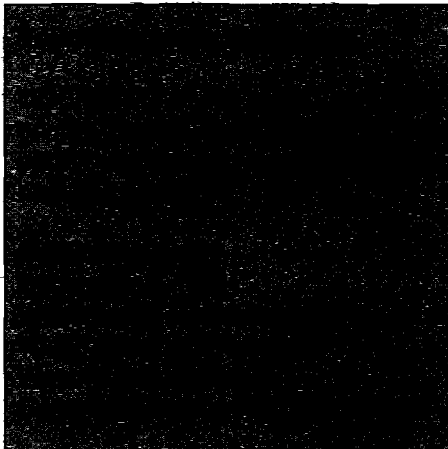
Mixed Waste Storage Permit Issued at RFP

DOE has received a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B permit for hazardous and mixed waste operations at RFP (The term "mixed" refers to waste containing both radioactive and nonradioactive constituents). This Part B permit, which regulates nine hazardous and low level mixed waste container storage units at RFP, was issued by CDH on September 30, 1991. It went into effect on October 30, 1991 and remains in effect for five years.

This is one of the first RCRA Part B permits regulating the storage of mixed waste issued in this country. The permit governs hazardous waste (as defined by the Colorado Hazardous Waste Act) and hazardous waste mixed with low-level radioactive waste. Such materials have been produced and stored at RFP.

The RCRA Federal statute regulates cradle to grave management of hazardous waste. Facilities that generate or produce hazardous waste must comply with standards established under RCRA. Owners and operators of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities must obtain a permit that establishes certain operating conditions. RCRA permits may also include schedules for achieving compliance and any required corrective action.

RFP has operated these nine hazardous and low level mixed waste units under RCRA interim status since the early 1980s. The Part B application including detailed information on these units was submitted in 1986.



The Part B permit can be modified and expanded to encompass additional areas where low level mixed waste trans-uranic mixed waste and mixed residue will be stored and treated. DOE has submitted a permit modification consisting of 12 distinct changes to be made to the Part B permit. These changes are primarily intended to clarify specific requirements of the permit.

The requested changes are necessary to update the Part B permit to reflect current waste management

operations. Approval and implementation of the changes will not pose any threat to human health or the environment. The RCRA permit modification request contains detailed information and can be viewed and photocopied at the reading rooms. CDH has granted temporary authorization for RFP to operate under this permit modification for up to 180 days.

Hazardous and low level radioactive mixed wastes continue to be treated and stored at RFP until an approved disposal facility becomes available. Typical wastes include rags, solvents, oil, acids, and bases, laboratory chemicals, and paint.

DOE invites citizens to comment on the Part B RCRA permit modification request during the public comment period running through January 2, 1992. A public comment meeting will be held on December 5, 1991, to receive oral comments on this modification. Written comments will be accepted throughout the comment period addressed to Noreen Matsuura, Colorado Department of Health, 4210 East 11th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80220. Written and oral comments are encouraged during the public comment period and will receive equal consideration. ■

Public Invited to Use Reading Rooms

The following reading rooms contain current information, technical reports, and reference documents on environmental restoration at the Rocky Flats Plant.

Rocky Flats Public Reading Room
Front Range Community College
Library

3645 West 112th Avenue
Level B, Center of Building
Westminster, Colorado 80030
303-469-4435

Hours: Monday – Tuesday
12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring Council

1536 Cole Boulevard, Suite 325
Denver West Office Park, Building 4
Golden, Colorado 80401
303-232-1966

Hours: Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Colorado Department of Health
Rocky Flats Program Unit**
4210 East 11th Avenue, Room 351
Denver, Colorado 80220
303-331-6733

Hours: Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

EPA Superfund Records Center
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80202-2405
303-293-1807

Hours: Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**United States Department of Energy
Freedom of Information and Privacy
Branch Office**

1000 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
202-586-6025

Hours: Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST)

Calendar of Events

- **Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring Council Meeting (Tentative):** 7:00 p.m., January 28, 1992. Please call the Environmental Monitoring Council to verify meeting date and location at (303) 232-1986.
- **General Rocky Flats Plant Tours:** December 9, 1991, and January 13, 1992. Please call (303) 966-2011 one week in advance for reservations.
- **Public Comment Meeting for the RCRA Permit Modification:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., December 5, 1991, Westminster Recreation Center, 10455 Shendan Boulevard, Westminster.
- **Public Comment Period for the RCRA Permit Modification:** Public comment period runs from November 4, 1991, until January 2, 1992.
- **Jefferson County Public Information Meeting on Proposed New Sanitary Landfill at RFP:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., December 11, 1991, Jefferson County Planning Department Hearing Room, 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden.

New Documents

- *Final Community Relations Plan for Rocky Flats Plant Environmental Restoration Program*
- *Final Responsiveness Summary for Rocky Flats Plant Community Relations Plan Environmental Restoration Program*
- *EG&G Rocky Flats Plant Environmental Restoration Monthly Reports for September 1991 and October 1991*

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